

BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.
Mayor



NADINE K. NAKAMURA
Managing Director

COUNTY OF KAUAI

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

News Release

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SARAH BLANE, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
Tel (808) 241-4900
Fax (808) 241-6877

County of Kaua'i and Kaua'i District Health Office hosts joint press conference on the importance of preventing mosquito borne illnesses

LĪHU'E – Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. today hosted a joint press conference in the Mayor's Office with Kaua'i District Health Officer Dr. Dileep Bal and Kaua'i Civil Defense Manager Elton Ushio, to encourage the community to assist in preventing mosquito borne illnesses.

The press conference was held in response to the emergency proclamation signed by Governor David Ige on Friday, which encouraged all counties to coordinate planning and prevention measures.

"While there are no known cases of Dengue Fever or Zika within the County of Kaua'i, we want to urge the community to take preventative measures and heed warnings now," urged Mayor Carvalho. "Government officials and community members alike have a responsibility in preventing and controlling mosquito borne illnesses."

At today's press conference, Mayor Carvalho assured the community that the County has been in communication with key on-island agencies, such as the State's Kaua'i District Health Office, the Kaua'i Police Department, the Kaua'i Fire Department, as well as healthcare and visitor industry partners.

"While our main focus at this time is to work to prevent mosquito borne illnesses from reaching the county, officials are working with key stakeholders to prepare for an outbreak,"

added Mayor Carvalho. “While an outbreak of Dengue or Zika is not imminent here on Kaua‘i, we must be vigilant. This is why prevention is so important.”

The state Department of Health and the Kaua‘i Civil Defense Agency (KCDA) encourage residents and businesses to take the following measures:

- Survey the area in and around your home or business and eliminate any standing water, which is a breeding environment for mosquitoes.
- Recycle or properly dispose of old tires, containers or appliances around your property.
- Drain or dump vases, pots or pools when not in use.
- Use screen and windows to keep mosquitoes out of your home or office. Be sure to repair holes in screens.
- Wear protective clothing or apply mosquito repellants as directed to help prevent mosquito bites.

The state Department of health reported that as of Monday there have been a total of 256 confirmed cases of Dengue Fever on Hawai‘i Island. According to the Center for Disease Control's website, there have been four travel-associated cases of Zika virus in Hawai‘i but no locally acquired cases to date.

KCDA has posted links for Dengue and Zika information on its website, www.kauai.gov/civildefense, for more information on these diseases. These links go directly to the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health Dengue page and the Centers for Disease Control's Zika page.

For more information on refuse transfer stations and recycling services, visit www.kauai.gov/recycling.



PHOTO: Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. stands with Kauaʻi District Health Officer Dr. Dileep Bal (left) and Kauaʻi Civil Defense Manager Elton Ushio (right) following today's press conference in the Mayor's Office.

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